

# Washington Massage

# NEWS



Wash. Chapter, American Association Masseurs & Masseuses

Editor Ruth Williams  
Kennewick, Wash

November, 1957

State of Oregon  
State Office Bldg.  
1400 S.W. 5th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon

July 30, 1957

A copy of letter mailed to those persons holding a State of Ore.  
License for Massage.

The Massage Licensing Act by which all masseurs are licensed in the State of Oregon defines massage as friction on or against the body for the purpose of maintaining good health. The working and intent of the law limits massage and the practice of massage to non-medical and non-corrective practices.

Diagnosis, treatment, therapy, or any other medical activity is not permitted under the massage licensing law. Advertising by the written or spoken word should be limited to the promotion of good health. There should be no inference that a licensed masseur is qualified to perform or will perform medical consultation, advice, therapy, or treatment, since this would require licensure under the Medical Practice Act.

Inquiries have also been made concerning the design and use of electric and sound machines. Medical electrical equipment includes sine-wave, faradic, diathermy, ultra-sonic and other devices. The Oregon State Board of Health has ruled that the use of ultra-sonic and medical electrical machines is outside the practice of massage.

We realize that you would not intentionally violate the law and run the risk of having your license suspended, revoked or denied. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity to remind you of the limitations of your license. Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Harold M. Erickson, M.D.  
State Health Officer.

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## HERE IS WASHINGTON STATE

There has been, and probably still is, a common belief among masseurs and masseuses that a State license somehow provides protection and prestige to those engaged in the practice of Massage. The foregoing letter is published in Wash. Massage News for the benefit of those who still cling to this belief. Please read it carefully. You will note that all Masseurs and Masseuses in Oregon are licensed in order to practice. It is very evident that instead of enjoying protection and prestige they are being regulated, and told what they are permitted to do and not do. The penalty for violation of any of the edicts and provisions of the law and of the State Board of Health is loss of the guilty persons license, either temporarily or permanently, and the loss of his or her business and livelihood.

In sharp contrast to the Licensing law in Oregon, our own State of Washington has a law which was enacted in 1906 and amended in 1917 which gives everyone the legal right to practice massage without a State license. We enjoy unlimited freedom in the use of the various massage techniques; we give colonic irrigations; we use steam cabinets, heat lamp massage vibrators, etc. We give treatments to the opposite sex and our hours of work are not regulated by law, no state inspectors prowl around our premises. We do not take a State-supervised examination, loaded with tricky and misleading questions, in order to secure a license. We do not pay an annual fee for the privilege of displaying a license and being regimented and restricted.

Would you exchange our legal protection and freedom for the conditions that are always attached to a State license? The July-August 1956 issue of the Masseur gives a review of the laws pertaining to massage in every State in the U.S. There are six states which then had Licensing laws, and in every case the law was, and probably still is, used to drip the profession of massage. Probably the worst law exists in Minnesota, where the State Board of Medical Examiners administers the law. The requirements for obtaining a massage license are four year courses in a Physical Therapy College approved by the Medical Board. The Masseur must have a prescription from a medical man before giving a treatment. In the report on the conditions in Minnesota we read: "In 1925 the Masseurs had a strong Association and got their own bill passed, in 1927, got their amendments passed, they (the medical men) then took over the Massage Act." I have been informed that Oregon also had an examining and administrative Board composed of Masseurs when their law first went into effect, and that the Legislature later substituted the State Board of Health which is under the medical profession.

One fact stands out in bold relief in the case of Oregon and Minnesota, namely, indifference on the part of those who earn their living from the practice of massage. Minnesota and Oregon have both let the massage profession be taken over and almost destroyed by their competitors because the masseurs have felt too secure and too indifferent. No graduate of any ordinary school of massage can obtain a license in Minnesota. Passing the Oregon examination is very difficult and many have failed to pass, if my information is correct. In both States, the Association membership is or has been extremely low. Oregon has a large number of masseurs, possibly hundreds, and only twenty-one (21) members in the State Chapter of A.A.M.M.

Our own State of Washington Chapter, A.A.M.M., has the largest membership in the U.S. The Chapter has always performed remarkably well, thanks to an alert membership. Many more Masseurs and Masseuses, outside our State Chapter, need us and we need them if we are to prevent extinction from bad laws imposed on us by jealous competitors or misinformed Legislators. We have a fine Committee on Legislation, a legis-



lative fund and a Lobbyist, and we have thousands of people who depend upon us to keep them in better health. We also have many friends among the medical men and Physical Therapists. We cannot afford to "let George do it." We shape our own future, for better or for worse, thru our State Chapter, A.A.M.M.

Fete I. Eitreim, R.M.  
President, Wash. Chapter

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## OREGON NEWS (South of the border-down Oregon way)

With publication of the Wash. News every other month, I'm beginning to question whether this was a good move or not? Not being a member of the Wash. Chapter, and having nothing to say about it's publication, I wonder if there isn't a period of connection lost among the western members even tho the national "asseur makes up for the odd month. This const ntly keeping in touch with members of each chapter lends a helping hand in promoting good fellowship, various activities, meetings, public acceptances, etc. No large business concern or merchantile store chances to loose track of their customers by failing to advertize in some method of the other. Hence, why not in the Massage industry?

For members of the Ore. Chapter, I'm pleased to announce that your Sec., pres., and C.E. Sample met with an attourney in Albany to cover the latest directive mailed all massuers and masseuses. We are on the job and since "Discretion is t he better part of Valore" it behoves all members to attend the bi-monthly meeting in Roseburg, Ore. this coming Nov. 10th at the Umqua Hotel at 1:00pm. You can get your noon meal there, after which the meeting will be held on second floor. To all members not having a car, contact some member who has. You can help on the gas and oil and six can travel as cheaply as one. It will pay all members to be at this meeting since you will learn more about what is being done prior to the Committees meeting with the State Board of Health Dec. 6th, in Portland, Ore. Portland members will have to get it into their heads that there are other meeting places in the state other than just Portland. At this meeting you will learn something that might be of interest to you and the massage profession, and if you don't want to get your neck in the wringer, I suggest that you be there!

While mentioning this meeting may I call the attention of a few members who are delinquent with their dues. You are NOW delinquent and your membership expires completely 60 days from Aug 31st., after which you will have to make your application to the Board of Directors for re-installation. Since the Ore. Chapter is going to protedt only it's members, those who are not members will be on the outside looking in. Furthermore, anyone in financial or personal difficulties may, by writing your Sec., obtain a withdrawal card good for the fiscal year, without being subject to any penalties whatsoever.

In looking over the revised by laws, Article 5 Sec 6 of our constitution, I note that dues for the coming year 1958-59 will be raised to \$24.00 which is a very dooddeal for the associarion. Considering the dues of some unions, this small increase is a small pittance, since por-tion of the increase goes for a sinking fund for nat'l and state chapters for legal aid, in just such cases as we are now confronting. It comes as a 'helping hand' for chapters in distress in meeting legislative troubles.



In case I haven't mentioned it, S.D. Leaden of Albany was elected Pres. and C.A. Tyler, of Dundee, Vice pres. Sec.-treas. (The penny pincher. That's right we're in the black, beleive it or not.)

C.A. Tyler  
Oregon State Sec'y-treas.

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A letter from Florence Taylor tell us that she has spent some time in California this fall visiting with loved ones and just plain sight seeing.

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Have you sent your dues in yet? Never before has it been so forceably brought to our attention for the need of strength in unity as the fore going atticles. Do not neglect to send your dues in any longer. Your A.A.M.M. needs you, but more important, you need the A.A.M.M. FURTHER DELAY WILL ONLY COST YOU MORE MONEY AND CAUSE YOUR SECY'TREASUR MUCH RED TAFE.

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### Thanksgiving

Thought for today: H. Ballou once said, "If gratitude ~~is~~ due from children to their earthly parent, how much more is the gratitude of the great family of men due to our Father in Heaven."

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To those of you who have already sent in your dues I want to thank you. I have only sent out one statement to date and forty of you members have responded. I feel that this is a remarkable record. It has truely saved me many hours of work. Now there are only ten more members to send their dues.

Thank You.

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Withdrawal cards were issued to Ermal Rothgeb, Victor Markus, and Alvis Armstrong.

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### Welcome to new members

E. W. Sellar 1226 N. 47th St., Seattle

Almeda R Barton 4238 Graham St., Seattle

Both of these members have been sponsored by Arthur Mann.

How about that? Good work Art! I would like to see some more of the same